

Message Text

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11
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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, SCUL, SOCI, CI
SUBJECT: ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL

REF: A) SANTIAGO 6380 B) STATE 188093

1. THE GROUP OF ST. GEORGE'S PARENTS, TEACHERS AND ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF WHO OPPOSE THE GOC TURNOVER OF THE SCHOOL TO THE SANTIAGO ARCHBISHOPRIC HAS CONTINUED ITS AGITATION IN THE FORM OF LETTERS TO THE PRESS. MOREOVER, REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GROUP PRESENTED THEIR CASE TO PRESIDENT PINOCHET IN LATE JULY.

2. IN AN OFFICIAL STATEMENT RELEASED JULY 28, EDUCATION MINISTER TRONCOSO GAVE WHAT HE MUST HOPE WOULD BE THE DEFINITIVE REPLY. REFERRING TO THE PARENTS' MEETING WITH PINOCHET, HE SAID THAT "HIS EXCELLENCY (THE PRESIDENT) REPEATED WHAT HAD (ALREADY BEEN COMMUNICATED--THAT IS, THAT BEGINNING WITH 1977 THE SCHOOL WILL COME UNDER THE CONTROL OF THE VICARIATE OF EDUCATION OF THE SANTIAGO ARCHBISHOPRIC, WHICH HAS RECEIVED ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL ON LEASE (EN COMODATO) FROM THE HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION."

3. TRONCOSO BALANCED THIS STATEMENT WITH WHAT APPEARS AN EQUALLY DEFINITIVE COMMITMENT THAT HOLY CROSS MAY NOT RETURN TO THE SCHOOL: "NO MEMBER OF THE HOLY CROSS CONGREGATION WILL RETURN TO ST. GEORGE'S SCHOOL, NOR PARTICIPATE IN ANY WAY IN THE DIRECTION, ADMINISTRATION OR TEACHING OF THAT EDUCATION INSTITUTION."

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FURTHER, THE "TRANSFERENCE" OF ST. GEORGE'S TO HOLY CROSS WOULD

NULLIFY THE GOVERNMENT'S ACTION OF WITHDRAWING ITS CONTROL IN
FAVOR OF THE ARCHBISHOPRIC.

4. TRONCOSO CONCLUDED BY SHOOTING DOWN WHAT THE UNHAPPY GROUP OF
PARENTS HAVE BEEN PROPOSING AS A WAY OUT--THAT THE GOC PREVAIL
UPON HOLY CROSS TO SELL THE SCHOOL TO THEM. HE SUGGESTED THAT
THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY DEAL WITH THIS MATTER VIA "DIRECT NEGOTIATION
WITH THE OWNERS."

5. COMMENT: HOLY CROSS HAS REASON TO BE CAUTIOUS ABOUT THE
SCHOOL'S TURNOVER UNTIL IT ACTUALLY IS ACCOMPLISHED, BUT
TRONCOSO'S PUBLIC INVOCATION OF PINOCHET IS STRONG MEDICINE. IT
IS OF COURSE BALANCED BY HOLY CROSS' EXCLUSION FROM THE SCHOOL,
BUT EVEN THAT MIGHT BE OVERCOME BY TIME AND CAREFUL NURTURE.
POPPER

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